

California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 2004

Volume 95 No. 3

\$2.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Ongoing Daily Through September 7, 2004

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

Plant Portraits: The California Legacy of A.R. Valentien, a display of 80 stunning watercolors of native California plants painted in the early 1900s. Visit www.sdnhm.org for more information.

May 1 Sat.

CLAIREMONT GARDEN TOUR 8th Annual Garden Tour 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Over 20 gardens! Tickets available day of the event by cash or check only, from 9-10:30 a.m. in front of the Clairemont Community Service Center, 4371 Clairemont Dr. at Lakehurst (Clairemont Town Square). \$8.50.

May 1 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY of thousands of garden-related books is open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Rm 105. 619/232-5762.

May 1 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Houseplants, 9 a.m., 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR May Flowers, Spring Color 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 1-2 Sat.-Sun.

AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY SHOW Presented by the California Coastal Rose Society at the Carlsbad Flower Fields. Sat. 1-5 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. General admission \$7 at the gate or discount coupon available at www.coastalrose.org.

May 1-2 Sat.-Sun.

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. 7th Annual "Sage & Songbirds Festival." (Jazz concert Saturday pm) Activities 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at J.K. Corral, 2500 Alpine Blvd. Many free events including walk-thru butterfly enclosure. Self-guided tour of six private home habitat gardens. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets \$12. 619/445-7675.

May 1-2 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY 38th Annual Spring Show and Sale. Sat. 1:00-5:00 p.m., and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Rm 101. Free.

May 1-2 Sat.-Sun.

SAN LUIS OBISPO BOTANICAL GARDEN 13th Annual Garden Festival "Mediterranean Sun." Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. El Chorro Regional Park, California Highway 1, between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. \$1 parking south side of Hwy 1 at

Cuesta College. Shuttle to garden. Admission \$5, children 12 and under free. Exhibitors welcome. 805/546-3501 or www.slob.org.

May 1-2 Sat.-Sun.

UCI ARBORETUM Spring Perennial Sale featuring unusual perennials from South Africa and around the globe and rarely available through local nurseries. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Located south of the corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on the UCI North Campus. 949/824-5833. Admission \$2.00, children under 12 free.

May 3 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2003-2004 Shirli Eastman of Valley Center. Carlsbad Women's Club. 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 door. 760/749-9608.

May 6-8 Thurs.-Sat.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB 57th Annual Rummage Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club, 17025 Avenida de Acacias, southeast corner of La Granada and Avenida de Acacias. Free parking in the Village of Rancho Santa Fe. For info call 858/756-4101. Free.

May 7-11 Fri.-Tues.

ARS NATIONAL CONVENTION Sponsored by the San Diego Rose Society at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. Details at end of calendar.

May 8 Sat.

BLOSSOM VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Garden Tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour five gardens, one home and a stable area where there will be plants, arts and crafts, and lunch for sale. Tickets available at the Flinn Springs Country Store, 14860 Olde Highway 80. \$10. Lake Jennings Park exit off Hwy 8 East of El Cajon.

May 8 Sat.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS GARDEN TOUR Six gardens in La Mesa and Lemon Grove. Open Days Directory with address and descriptions sold at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway and San Diego, also Cedros Gardens in Solana Beach. \$5 cost, includes \$5 coupon to visit a garden. Cost per garden is also \$5. www.gardenconservancy.org.

May 8 Sat.

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB Annual Gardeners' Market. 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Washington Mutual Bank Patio, 7777 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Proceeds help support Landscape and Horticultural scholarships at four local colleges.

Continued on page 68



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VOLUME 95

NUMBER 3

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MAY-JUNE 2004

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COVER photograph by Peter Dargusch of *Nymphaea* 'Wood's White Knight' waterlily

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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May 8 Sat.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB 6th Annual Mission Hills Garden Walk "Cobble Walls and Canyon Rims." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Self-guided tour of 18 beautiful gardens. Buy tickets at Mission Hills Nursery, Cedros Gardens, Walter Andersen Nursery, and local businesses. Advance tickets \$15, day of \$20. Price includes 10% off coupon for Mission Hills Nursery. 619/543-9388.

May 8 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Epiphyllum "Orchid Cactus," 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Garden Railroad: Bringing it all Together, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 8 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly classes 9:30 a.m. Instructor Dee Maranhao, Xeriscape Instructor at Cuyamaca College, speaks about "Lush Landscaping on a Low Water Budget." At 1 p.m., Greg Rubin of California's Own Landscaping presents "Why Go Native?" 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

May 8-9 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Casa del Prado Courtyard Sale Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Annual Mother's Day Show. "Epis & Heirlooms." 11:00 a.m.-4 p.m., Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 10 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "Two Gardens, Twenty-five Years." David Fross of Leaning Pine Arboretum in San Luis Obispo. 6:30 p.m. Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.

May 12 Wed.

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB "Bonita in Bloom" Garden Tour. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Six beautiful gardens in and around Bonita. Tour \$15 and lunch \$5. Contact Diane Hahnel at 619/216-1981. Tour only tickets available day of at Bonita Wesleyan Church, 5305 Sweetwater Rd., Bonita.

May 15 Sat.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL "A Garden Party" 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Includes Suzy Spafford, creator of Suzy's Zoo demonstrating for the San Diego Watercolor Society a special exhibit of Valentien prints, "Splashtastic" Magic Show and much more at the Ornamental Horticulture Field Site, the Water Conservation Garden, and at the college, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon. 619/660-4262. Free.

May 15 Sat.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS GARDEN TOUR Seven gardens in Encinitas. Open Days Directory with address and descriptions sold at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway and San Diego, also Cedros Gardens in Solana Beach. \$5 cost, includes \$5 coupon to visit a garden. Cost per garden is also \$5. www.gardenconservancy.org.

May 15 Sat.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Garden Tour "Gardens on the Point." Eight delightful and unique gardens in Point Loma. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Advance tickets available at Walter Andersen Nursery \$10. Tickets on the day of at Rosecroft Garden, 530 Silvergate Ave. \$15. Further info at 619/222-5207 or www.geocities.com/pointlomagardenclub/.

May 15 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See May 1 for details.

May 15 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Ornamental Grasses with presentation from Green Meadows, 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Orchids with guest speakers Charlie Fouquette and Bud Close, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 15-16 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY 33rd Annual Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 15-16 Sat.-Sun.

WEIDNERS' GARDENS Ladybug Festival and The Battle of the Bugs Play by 2nd graders from Mission Estancia school. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Free ladybugs, a cupful for every child, and rock painting. 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. 760/436-2194 or visit www.weidners.com. Free.

May 16 Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS 30th Annual Plant Sale. Thousands of rare and unusual plants. Special highlight this year is plants with unusual foliage. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. In the parking lot. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. 626/405-2100. Free.

May 22 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Plant Propagation, Grafting and Cutting 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Pruning and Maintenance of Landscape Trees and Shrubs. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 22 Sat.

WEIDNERS' GARDENS 3rd Annual Home Garden Tour to benefit the Community Resource Center. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of, available at Weidners', 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. 760/436-2194, www.weidners.com, or call CRC 760/753-1156.

May 29 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring and Summer Color with Proven Winners. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Achieve the Garden of Your Dreams: How to Use a Landscape Designer. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 29-30 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP SHOW 26th Annual Bromeliad Plant Show and Sale. Includes competition, workshops on planting, mounting, and dividing. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 5 Sat.

ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER 6th Annual Garden Celebration "Morning Glory Brunch." Proceeds benefit environmentally friendly organic garden center and adults with developmental disabilities. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 2119 E. Madison Ave., El Cajon. 619/442-5129 x332. \$35 before May 17th or \$40 at the door.

June 5 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See May 1 for details.

June 5 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Staghorn Ferns 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Summer Rose Care, 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale. Courtyard sale 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Open to the public Sat. noon-5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 9 Wed.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Tour to Lotusland in Montecito. Price includes lunch and dinner. \$65, members and \$75 non-members. Call the office for details 619/232-5762. Send check to SDFA, 1650 El Prado, Rm. 105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622.

June 11-12 July 5

2004 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR theme is "Seussentennial Celebration" and the 2004 Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show is "Fanta-Seuss." Opens at 10 a.m. Closed Mondays except July 5. Over 50 garden displays, horticultural displays, floral design, lectures and demonstrations. www.sdfair.com or 24 hour information line 858/793-5555.

June 12 Sat.

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY (Daylily) Annual Show and Sale, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 12 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Cymbidium Orchid Repotting 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Staghorn

Fern Remounting and Care. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 12 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly classes 9:30 a.m. Joyce Gemmel, Master Gardener, will attack those pests and gardening problems in "Problem Solving with the Veggie Dr." At 1 p.m., Shelley Stevenson, of Keystone Pacific, division of RCP Brick & Block, will introduce the Keystone Product line. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

June 14-July 12

EAST COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION Art Show of floral paintings called "June Bloom". Wed.-Sat. from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. ECAA Gallery, 225 East Main, El Cajon. Luanna Schwartz 619/465-9657. Free.

June 15 Tues.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING 6:30 p.m. Social and dinner. \$11 for members, \$15 non-members, reservations required by June 11. 7:00 p.m. Speaking on "Propagation of Plumerias in San Diego County" will be Ken Ames and Carl Hertzog. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 19 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See May 1 for details.

June 19 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Subtropical Shade Plants 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Plumeria Grafting and Care 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 26 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Growing Subtropical Fruits 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Summer Fruit Tree Pruning/Dave Wilson Fruit Tasting 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 26-27 Sat.-Sun.

BEGONIA FESTIVAL at Weidners' Gardens. Peak bloom of tuberous begonias, includes refreshments, speakers, and free fertilizer fill-up (bring empty gallon jug) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. 760/436-2194 or www.weidners.com. Free.

June 26-27 Sat.-Sun.

BOTANICAL ART CLUB SHOW Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Volunteer guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History

oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyonwalks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June.
619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for
locations, times, and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours &

Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive,
Encinitas. Free admission. 760/436-3036 or
www.qbgardens.com.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided

Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation

Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each
month. 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30
a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday

noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to
4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$12.50
adults, \$10 seniors, \$8.50 students (12-18), \$5 youth
(5-11) children under 5 and members free. Group rate
(10+) \$9.50. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL
CALENDAR** for July-August issue is **MAY 15. SAN
DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible
for changes that are submitted late by the
organizations.

2004 American Rose Society National Convention "BOWERS OF FLOWERS"

May 7th to 11th, 2004

Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley

The San Diego Rose Society sponsors the ARS
National Convention every ten years and we are all very
excited that this is the year. The convention will be held
at the Town & Country Hotel and they will have on
display over 3,000 roses. We will have rosarians
attending from all over the United States and some from
Europe. There will be events and educational programs
for everyone to attend. You won't want to miss this
wonderful event.

You won't want to miss entering the fragrance
contest on May 7th, 2004 and entries will be accepted
from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the main lobby of the hotel.
You do NOT have to be registered to enter this contest
and the public is welcome. We will provide the
properties and the set up tables for the grooming of the
roses. We will also have some TV and radio celebrities
on hand to judge the roses. Loren Nancarrow (Channel

10 News and author), John Bagnasco (Garden Compass
Magazine and Radio program) and Tricia Craven Worley
(Channel 9 News and Co Host of "Today's Homeowner
with Danny Lipford" nationally syndicated CBS TV
show) will be our official judges. So bring your most
fragrant roses for a chance to win!!

We will need lots of help for the actual rose show
and you can contact me, Bonnie Shultz, at
bonjack1@cox.net or call me at 619-440-4174 after 6
p.m. weekdays if you would like to help and learn the
behind the scenes happenings of a big rose show. I
promise you that you will enjoy it all. The regular rose
show will be Saturday and Sunday and you must register
to enter. It's not too late—you can go to the San Diego
website at www.arsspringconvention2004.org for a
listing of the events and programs or contact Sue
Streep at 619-448-0321 or streep@cox.net for any
other questions about the show. Doors to the public
open on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For the Rose Show
only—admission is \$5 each and children under 12 are
free. Hope to see you all there.

"DOWN TO EARTH" with Tom Piergrossi daily at
11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN. Time Warner 22,
Cox 19 or Adelphia 66.

Antonelli Brothers

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION IS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TOUR DIRECTOR

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go? Enjoy the fellowship of groups of people? Then you
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SDFA office at 619-232-5762 and volunteer today.

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

NIGHT BLOOMERS . . .

The most well-known night blooming flowers are the jasmines. There are many night bloomers with similar scents that are called jasmines but they are not *Jasminums*. The most well known in this area is the 'night-blooming jasmine' (*Cestrum nocturnum*), a leggy, evergreen shrub, native to the West Indies. Throughout the summer it bears clusters of highly-scented, creamy-white flowers followed by white berries. During the 20s and 30s in many neighborhoods these shrubs were planted between houses to scent the houses during the night.

The scent of flowers of the vine *J. grandiflorum* is the one used for thousands of years as a perfume. Scientists have isolated the signature chemical of jasmine. It's called "jasmonate." Over 83% of women's perfumes and 33% of mens contain this scent. Because it takes 5 million jasmine flowers to make 1 kilo (2.4 pounds) of jasmine absolute, scientists have developed chemical approximations. Natural jasmonate also is found in many scented flowers—roses, citrus, etc.

Night blooming flowers are usually white. This is because moths are their primary pollinators. As the dew falls these night-flying insects are attracted both by the color and the scent.

BAD TASTES . . .

Scientists have found that black-capped chickadees will not eat caterpillars that eat leaves rich in two chemicals formed when plants take up carbon dioxide, the

gas from vehicles and industry. Other insects do not like leaves with increased chemicals. This works down the food chain — birds eat insects, etc. All this is part of the worldwide study on the effects of global warming. Climate changes are disrupting the ecosystems, causing species extinction, and migrating of flora and fauna.

GLOVES . . .

Many gardeners spurn protective gloves saying, "I love the feel of earth on my hands." But there are times when gloves should be worn. Today there are gloves ranging in price from under \$1 to \$50. They fit snugly and come in sizes — large, small, and kids. (The major complaint against the older gloves was that one couldn't feel what they were doing.) Some are waterproof, others are puncture-resistant, and there are even specialty ones that claim to be protective for everything. Most gardeners prefer leather, and there are a variety of types available — many byproducts of the food industry. If you are a glove loser, there are many available in brilliant colors so they can be spotted on a crowded workbench. Like everything else, sizes differ from kind to kind. So try them on before buying.

BEEES . . .

Almonds are the biggest crop in California requiring honeybees. Over 1 million honeybee hives are needed to pollinate the 530,000 acres of almonds in the Central Valley. It takes two hives per acre. There are only 440,000

California beehives, so beekeepers from Colorado, Washington, and South Dakota bring hives to rent to the growers during the blooming season. (Hives rent at approximately \$50 per hive.) Almond growing is a \$1.19 billion industry and California produces 80% of the world's supply of almonds.

There is a shortage of hives this year because 10,000 to 15,000 hives were destroyed in the recent Southern California fires.

After the almond season the hives are moved to the cherry and apple orchards. Not as many hives are needed for these orchards.

FAUX GRASS . . .

The city of Anaheim and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are testing synthetic lawns in front of five homes to see if it conserves water. This new "turf" looks more natural than the old AstroTurf introduced in 1966 in the Astrodome. One of the new turfs is made of silica sand and rubber particles (from old tires) topped with 2½-inch long individual blades of polyethylene-polypropylene. Several schools, community colleges, and youth leagues in So. California have installed it on their playing fields. It costs approximately half a million dollars to cover one football or soccer field. The faux turfs have an eight year guarantee. One community is using funds allocated for improvement. (Guess all the roofs, streets, plumbing, and air quality is O.K.)

GOING WILD OVER PONDS®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

So how's your wildlife garden growing?

You say you don't have one?

Are you sure?

Whether you realize it or not, as you are out in the yard weeding or seeding, wildlife is all around you—the birds and the bees and the butterflies and who knows what else.

And isn't that one reason you like to garden? Have you ever hosed down a hummingbird (inadvertently) as you watered your plants with a garden hose? To watch the little buzzers as they fly through the gentle spray (don't use a fire hose for this) is one of life's little joys. Butterflies, too, will glide along the edges of the spray, absorbing the fine mist.

Birds will visit a birdbath or whatever else can hold a bit of water. And just the sound of running water will draw lots of tweeters. It's fun to watch them and notice that different species have different bathing behaviors. A recent scenario, in the basin of a small fountain I have, went like this: a brown towhee was bathing in a very businesslike manner at one end of the basin, when along came a small band of lesser goldfinches. The

goldfinches, being a pretty rowdy group, began running up and down a slab of rock that was sticking partway out of the water, splashing into the area where the towhee was, disturbing his ablutions. After about five minutes of this, the towhee left, perhaps disgustedly. Meanwhile, the finches kept whooping it up. They love bathing. It was great fun to watch.

HOLDING YOUR WATER

Provide water, and they will come.

But what to put the water in?

Birdbaths are dandy. So are fountains. But if you really want to get into it, provide a pond.

Aaack! you may be thinking. It's extra work.

Well, yes it is.

But not as much as you think. (In fact, a lawn may take more effort to maintain than a pond—and a lawn is NO WAY as interesting.) It all depends on how you do it. David Curtright, president of the botanically proficient yet fun-loving Southern California Water Garden Society (760-741-8050), suggests that beginning water gardeners may want to try an aquascape kit (www.aquascapedesigns.com), one of the easiest ways to create a pond. He says, however, that the floor of the pond, which is formed by black liner, need not be covered with rock and gravel as the kit information suggests. Eventually a greenish mossy growth ("good" algae) will form on the liner itself, thus making for a natural look. And if the pond owner gets tired of the pond—or wants to install a larger one—he or she can always yank the current one out.

I have a small oval pond, about 9 x 12 feet, and



Author's pond (water iris, pickerel weed, water lilies, four leaf pennywort), photograph by the author.

almost 2 feet deep. Inside the pond, hugging the edges, is a ledge about 1 foot wide and 1 foot deep, so that a variety of water plants can be grown. (This might be a good place to mention that you will need to find out how deep you can make your pond without having to put a fence around it; local ordinances may vary in different areas of the county.) Heavy flagstone is positioned around the edge of the pond to hold the liner in place and to convey a professional, finished look. Water rises inside and then spills over the edge of a large urn, then over a flagstone ledge, and into the pond. Situated on the other side of the urn is a 3- x 3-foot shallow basin into which some water flows.

The pond is located close to the patio and also can be seen from the kitchen window and table, since a huge portion of time is spent there.

A WATERWORLD

Word gets around.

After the pond was installed, more wildlife came to visit than ever before. Besides the usual birds and butterflies, there suddenly appeared dragonflies, damselflies, tiny frogs, and more varieties of birds than ever before; a phoebe dipped and swooped over the pond's surface, nabbing gnats and flies on the wing. A Cooper's hawk took a vigorous bath in the shallow basin near the urn. Mourning doves, wrentits, thrashers, yellow-rumped warblers, at least four kinds of sparrows, and even an egret stopped by. The egret, however, was disappointed—there were no big fish to catch. Instead of koi, which take extra care and tend to get eaten, I had stocked the pond with rosy-red/fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*). These can be purchased for pennies at pet stores and at City Farmers Nursery. Fatheads remain small (1 to 3 inches) and can evade predators by hiding in algae or under lily pads, probably chuckling all the while. The ones I have are a glorious golden color; they are definitely more attractive than mosquito fish and excel at keeping the pond free of mosquito larvae. They also eat some algae but do not harm higher plants. They are righteous fish.

PONDERING WHAT TO PLANT?

Lilypons has an excellent catalog (1-800-999-LILY). As you look at the mouth-watering photos of water plants, you will want to buy them all.

Don't.

Unless you have a pond the size of Delaware, you won't be able to provide enough room. A large water lily may cover 6 to 12 square feet of pond surface.

The catalog by Van Ness Water Gardens (1-800-205-2425) offers a formula for achieving an ecological balance in your pond without using harmful chemicals; after all, if you want to attract interesting wildlife you

won't want to be killing them off by putting toxic concoctions into the water. The catalog says that for each square yard of surface area you should have two bunches of oxygenating grasses (to produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide resulting from decaying matter and fish waste); one water lily (to provide surface shade to inhibit algae and cool the water); two 4" to 5" fish (to eat pests like mosquito larvae and telemarketers); twelve water snails (to eat algae and decomposing material); and one bog plant (to consume excess nitrogen and phosphates).

Also, a net bag of barley straw helps to keep the water clear.

See how easy?



Nymphaea 'Carnea'

Photograph by Peter Dargusch

Water lilies (*Nymphaea* spp.) are the stars of spring, summer and fall. Plant several varieties—in my East County pond, the hardy 'Carnea' appears in early March (if we have warm weather), then 'Formosa', and 'Pink Sensation'. Later on, the tropical 'Tina' appears, and she sometimes blooms all the way into December. Besides keeping the pond surface shaded and looking lovely, a lily pad also makes an excellent lounge chair for the tiny Pacific tree frog. After a spring rain, the come-hither croaking of the males sometimes goes on until all hours. How such a mighty sound comes out of such a tiny throat never ceases to amaze me.

Horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.) is a native American plant and gives a decorative vertical element to the pond. It looks a bit prehistoric, always a plus in my book.

Four leaf pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*) is an invaluable plant for the all-weather pond; its small shiny green leaves look pretty even in the dead of winter. I've not seen flowers on mine.

Water hawthorn (*Aponogeton distachyus*) has wonderful white flowers that bloom in the winter!

Hardly any other water plant in San Diego County can make that claim. The flowers are said to be fragrant but they always seem to come up in the middle of the pond, and if I tried to sniff them I'd fall in.

Water iris (*Iris* spp.) has beautiful flowers and attractive swordlike leaves. It also consumes excess phosphates.

Pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*) is a must-have water plant. It looks good much of the year, and the nectar-rich purple flowers are beloved by all kinds of butterflies. It is a long bloomer and easy to grow. And the stalks serve an exciting, mystical purpose: one-inch-long dragonfly naiads, which look for all the world like tiny science fiction monsters, climb out of the pond's water and cling to the pickerel stalk. In a short time the shell splits and out emerges an exquisite adult dragonfly. The adults are wonderful to watch as they perch on a plant stalk and grab tiny insects in the air. (I won't go into describing their funky mating habits now; it would take too long.) At the height of summer, it is wonderful to watch an adult female dragonfly glide by, scattering eggs like rose petals over the surface of the water.

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

According to the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, all you need to do to attract wildlife is to provide their four basic needs: water, food, shelter, and places to raise young. For some animals, a pond can provide all four requirements.

So how to create an extra interesting wildlife garden?

It's easy—just add water. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

*[Editor's note: a plant appearing in both these articles does not have agreement between what seem to be authoritative books about how it should be written. It is either winter hawthorne (*Aponogeton distachyus*) or winter hawthorn (*Aponogeton distachyos*) or a mixture of the two.]*

A WINTER-FLOWERING WATER PLANT

BY WALTER PAGELS

WINTER IS A TIME of rest for most pond plants in the temperate zone. This holds true even in subtropical regions such as Southern California. If the garden pond contains tropical waterlilies, the lilies bravely attempt to continue putting forth blooms, but even they give up by January or February. However, there is one water plant that thrives in cold water under gloomy skies: the water hawthorne (*Aponogeton distachyus*). This plant originates in the Union [Republic] of South Africa, where it is so common that it is known as the cape pondweed. It has floating dark green strap-like leaves about a foot long, often mottled with brown or purple blotches. The white flowers are packed on twin floral spikes facing each other, each flower having one oval petal and fourteen jet black anthers. They emit a strong fragrance resembling the wild hawthorne, hence the name.

The plant is a very prolific bloomer, each plant having up to ten flowering spikes throughout the winter. It is not even harmed if ice forms on the water surface provided the ice melts during the day.

The flowers near the base of the inflorescence have both stamens and pistils, while the flowers near the end have only stamens. When the basal flowers have been fertilized, they sink beneath the surface, while the upper male flowers remain emersed. The basal flower petals then turn green and envelop the developing seeds. When the seeds ripen, they are each released in a flotation jacket that allows them to drift over the pond surface. After about a day the jacket splits open at one end causing the seed to slip out and sink to the bottom. Germination occurs immediately and the pond is soon filled with young water hawthornes.

A certain amount of folklore attends the reason why the water hawthorne blooms in winter. The most popular is that the South African summer occurs during the northern hemisphere's winter and the water hawthorne still "remembers" the original summer time. Unfortunately for this tale, the water hawthorne also blooms in the winter time of its natural home. The western part of the Cape of Good Hope has weather much like Southern California in that it has dry summers and wet winters. The water hawthorne grows normally in temporary ponds that are filled by winter rains. The plant has made a marvelous adaptation to this environment by resting as a tuber when the pond dries in the summer. When the winter rains fill the pond, the



plant can put forth floating leaves from depths up to six feet. If the rains do not appear on schedule, the tuber remains at rest for many years, until finally the conditions are again right for renewed growth.

The water hawthorne was first removed from its native land in 1788 and after many generations has managed to acclimatize itself to many foreign situations. In England, it has adapted itself to bloom during the rather cool summer and autumn. In countries where the summers are hotter and winters colder, it has two peaks of blooming, one during May and the other during November. Here in Southern California, the plant goes into a semidormancy in summer if kept in the pond and has its best showing between November and April. Different plants vary somewhat in this respect, depending on their ancestry.

Because they reproduce so readily from seed, a great variability can be expected. Varieties have been observed having dark brown leaves, variegated leaves, and pink hued flowers. All plants seem to benefit by being dried off in their growing containers for two to three months of the year. This stabilizes their growing period resulting in larger plants and more profuse blooming. □

Walter Pagels is a nationally recognized authority on ponds. He is a cofounder and first president of the International Water Lily Society.

Reprinted from California Garden of January-February 1974, volume 65, Number 1

Rosa 'Graham Thomas'



OUR FAVORITE COASTAL ROSES

BY MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB
OF LA JOLLA

FINDING A BEAUTIFUL ROSE that offers a lasting bloom and a lovely fragrance is easy. Finding one that likes damp coastal weather and doesn't need a lot of chemicals to keep it healthy and happy is another thing. But they are out there and some of our members have been kind enough to share their favorites. Thanks to each of you who took the time to let us know what they are.

Bonnie Sipe:

We like the old standards like 'Double Delight' and 'Mister Lincoln' because of their sturdy, reliable bloom. Our favorite is 'Mt Hood', a prolific bloomer all year—and the white roses last nearly two weeks when picked.

Judy Holmes:

"My best coastal roses are 'Cécile Brünner' and 'Blueberry Hill'. Most everyone is familiar with Cécile—grows beautifully and has those little baby pink blossoms. It has been almost pest free for me. I had an episode with little green worms, but after I stripped the canes of all their leaves and growth, it has been perfect."

anonymous:

"'Blueberry Hill' is a fairly new rose (within the last five years), and is similar to an old rose floribunda. I have had no problems with beasts or fungus at all. The flower is lavender with five or six petals."

Sandy McCreight:

"I love 'Graham Thomas' one of David Austin's roses. Even though not classified as a climber, it acts like one growing happily over my fence. The beautiful yellow cabbage-like blossoms bloom constantly. It grows on its own, is remarkably hearty and vigorous, and resists mildew and mold with a simple application of the Organa Foliar Spray."

Barbara Moran:

"We love 'Cécile Brünner'. We sometimes forget to fertilize and yet it blooms nearly year-round. We live off Tecolote Canyon. Sometimes we have fog until 11:00 a.m. and yet have no problem with powdery mildew."

Lee Davis:

"I love 'Sexy Remy', because it has so many miniature flowers and buds it makes a wonderful filler in flower arrangements." This rose is covered with clusters of pinkish coral blossoms and is highly disease resistant.

Taken from "The Spindrift," the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla California Feb. 2004

MAGNOLIAS

BY VIRGINIA MAPLES INNIS

EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS MAGNOLIAS

Magnolias are evergreen and deciduous. They offer a wonderful world of garden beauty through shrubs and trees. Magnolias should grow in most of the warm Southwest. However, there is an interesting “but” factor involved. Magnolias should grow in the City and County of San Diego, but this area uses Colorado River water and magnolias don’t like Colorado River water!

EVERGREEN MAGNOLIAS

The mention of magnolias to many will evoke thoughts of the Old South. *Magnolia grandiflora* is the evergreen magnolia that is the very popular tree that is widely grown in the South. It has glossy green leaves and produces fragrant, huge, white flowers. The trees tend to be large and stately.

EVERGREEN MAGNOLIA CULTURE

Planting a magnolia needs a firm intent. Once they start growing, they do not take to further transplanting. Magnolias do not like digging occurring around their roots. They want good drainage, rich soil, and slow release fertilizer. Young trees love mulch.

Trees tend to be disease free, but can get scale and aphids. In the summer they can get spider mites. Snails go for lower branches.

Cuts on magnolias are slow to callus. Prune when necessary to correct shape or to remove lower branches after the tree gains height. Cut a twig to its base. Prune evergreen trees before spring growth. (Prune deciduous trees after bloom.) As beautiful as they are, the evergreen magnolia is listed among the “messy” trees that demand a lot of clean-up.

In San Diego, the Kensington area, one older part of the city, has some large, old homes. A few have evergreen magnolias in the home landscaping. These older, larger homes seem to provide a good scale relationship between the house and the stately magnolia trees. In Kensington, Ridgeway Drive ends in a circle that goes around some attractive trees, one of which is a magnolia; some homes on the circle have magnolia trees. The trees are very beautiful especially when they bloom.

Magnolias do not grow in the desert. They hate hot, dry, and windy places. They are not tolerant of salts in the desert soil. For the same reason, they do not like Colorado River water. Even when the water is good, magnolias like an occasional water leaching. Chances are that most of the mature trees in San Diego reached maturity before San Diego got Colorado River water. It



Magnolia grandiflora

seems that they continue to survive by getting leeching with rain.

Now most nurserymen in San Diego County do not recommend planting magnolias. Most nurseries stock a few to meet requests. Nurserymen will tell you to grow magnolias successfully you need to live north of Los Angeles or where the water is different.

It is a pity that San Diego County and the areas receiving Colorado River water are limited in magnolia growing and that gardeners in the area cannot take advantage of growing magnolias. They are a splendid lot!

DECIDUOUS MAGNOLIAS

Deciduous magnolias shed their leaves and are generally selected for the color they bring to a garden before the leaves drop. There are many varieties. Deciduous magnolias tend to be stars of spring gardens. The bark is grey and most deciduous magnolias bloom on bare branches before they leaf out. This brings a dramatic impact to the garden. Most trees selected for a garden are those that grow between 15 and 25 feet. There are some that grow 12 feet or under that are good for small spaces or small gardens. There are a few that will grow 25, 50, or 75 feet!

There is a wide range of flower forms among the deciduous magnolias. Some forms are called saucer, bowl, star, lily, and tulip. Flower colors are many. There are pristine white and cream; pink and purple seem to have all values of those colors represented. There are reds and burgundy, and the latest additions are a full representation of all aspects of the yellow hue. Sometimes a bud will be one color and open into a flower of a different color. Some will have a center or interior of a color that differs. Some flowers are 4 inches in size and some are a whopping 12 inches.

Bloom time is early, regular, or late. Most of the deciduous magnolias are frost tolerant, but frost will kill the flowers. Most varieties are selected for bloom time that comes after the frost.

Deciduous magnolias don't like sun. Most grow well on the coast, but the more inland the more they need protection from hot noon or afternoon sun. Inland they wish to grow in dappled circumstances.

When magnolias are unhappy they show it with leaf burn. Some factors that bring on leaf burn could be: the sun, the fertilizer, the soil, and the water.

Despite the reputation for magnolias, evergreen and deciduous, not doing well in San Diego, the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park has a few attractive trees and shrubs in their garden. There is a small deciduous magnolia at the entry gate and several others along the garden walks. Where the garden path divides there are three young *M. grandiflora*. They already have a height of at least fifteen feet. □

Virginia Maples Innes is a flower show judge and instructor. She also is a very accomplished gardener.

FANTA-SEUSS IN THE GARDENS AT THE FAIR

BY LUCY WARREN

THE PAUL ECKE, JR. FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW at the San Diego County Fair, June 11-July 5, will be a rollicking good time this year with a Seussian air. We are privileged to be honoring the 100th birth year of Dr. Theodore Geisel, our own Dr. Seuss.

The gardens will be filled with intriguing plants in keeping with the theme and don't miss the backdrop of the Flower Show Stage, designed by Pat Hammer of Samia Rose Topiary.

Our talented local floral arrangers will have themes that include Seuss titles and themes.

Our special guest for opening day Breakfast in the Garden is Marjorie Harris, editor-in-chief of Canada's leading gardening publication and author of a marvelous new book, *Botanica of North America*. She is talented, knowledgeable, and full of wit—Canada's answer to our own Pat Welsh. Her presentation will feature locally adapted plants.

Members of the San Diego Floral Association have always had an active part in the Fair and will again be participating at many levels.

The Fair is closed on Mondays except July 5. Gates open at 10:00 a.m. For more details check www.sdfair.com.

We'll see you at the Fair. □

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

- ☐ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
- ☐ \$18.00 members of SDFA (book, tax, mailing)
(\$18 or \$15 if picked up, tax included)

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions

- ☐ \$17.50 (book, tax, mailing)
(\$14.50 if picked up, tax included)

Send check to San Diego Floral Association,
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622

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VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

BY ELEANORE LEWIS

A CROP OF CONTAINERS

Gardening in a container is much like gardening in the ground; think of it as simply using a smaller "plot." No need for a large yard to enjoy your own garden of edible delights. Use space on your deck, patio, or windowsill to display pots, hanging baskets, and window boxes of vegetables and herbs. Start a garden in a pot anytime during the gardening season from early spring (for cool weather crops, such as peas and lettuce) to late spring (for warm-weather vegetables and herbs, such as beans, tomatoes and basil) through midsummer (resowing peas and lettuce for fall harvests). Planting and care require a minimum of time and effort.

Follow these guidelines to help you select the best pots and plants for your needs, whether you are a first-time gardener or an experienced pro.

FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Drainage is essential when you garden in containers. Few conditions will harm plants faster than soggy soil. Select pots with holes in the bottom or sides, so excess water can escape. If a pot lacks holes, drill three or four in the bottom. Raise containers without saucers off the surface of a deck or patio by placing them on decorative "feet" or pieces of wood. If you place saucers under containers, be sure to empty water from them.

Choose large pots, such as half-barrels and 12- to 14-inch-diameter planters, and deep window boxes to provide sufficient space for plants' roots and to cut down on your watering chores. The soil in large planters dries more slowly in hot weather than soil in small containers. The latter can lose moisture so quickly in the heat of midsummer, you need to water daily, sometimes twice a day. Opt for plastic or composition planters instead of clay; even though terra cotta pots look very decorative, their porous nature allows water to evaporate from the soil fast.

Use a potting mix that drains well, such as a soilless medium. Soilless mediums are lightweight, an important consideration if you want to move your containers around after planting. To help the mix retain moisture, you may want to add water-holding polymer crystals to the soil before planting. That may sound contradictory, but it is not. The polymers absorb moisture and release



it as the soil dries; they do not waterlog the soil. Add a time-release fertilizer, which will feed plants throughout the growing season.

PLANTING TIME

Many vegetables and some herbs grow best when you start them from seeds you sow directly in the container, such as beans, carrots, peas, radishes, turnips, cilantro, and dill.

Warm-season plants, such as peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, and basil, get a head start if you sow them indoors and transplant the seedlings into a larger container after six to eight weeks. Of course, you can purchase bedding plants at a garden center. Still others thrive with either method: spinach, lettuce, cucumber, and basil, for example.

When you combine bedding plants and seeds, set the plants in the container first; then sow seeds around the edge or in empty spaces among the plants. Seed packets tell you the correct spacing and whether you need to cover the seeds with soil. (Some seeds need light to germinate.) Except for tomatoes, set plants in the container at the same depth or just slightly deeper than they were growing in their pots. You can bury tomato plants up to the top two or three pairs of leaves; roots will form along the entire length of the buried stem.

Provide support for vining plants, such as tomatoes, pole beans, and cucumbers. Stake or cage tomatoes when you put them in the container. For pole beans and cucumbers, erect wooden trellises, trellises covered with netting; or build tepees with three to four bamboo poles tied together at the top.

Water the containers thoroughly when you finish planting. Keep the soil where you sowed seeds evenly moist until seeds germinate. Thin seedlings if necessary to the correct spacing for mature plants by cutting off the weakest looking ones at the soil surface.

Spread a 2-inch-deep layer of mulch over the soil surface after germination if you start with seeds. Mulch, which provides a decorative, finished appearance to any planting, helps to conserve moisture and prevents rain or hose water from splashing soil up onto the plants' leaves. Choose any mulch that is readily available or that looks particularly attractive with your container such as shredded bark.

CONTAINER GARDEN CARE

- Water planters as needed, which may mean daily in midsummer. To test soil for dryness, poke your finger into the soil; if it feels dry to a depth of 2 inches, water. Save time and effort by hooking up a drip irrigation system designed for containers; most garden centers carry them.

- Fertilize every two to three weeks, unless you added a time-release plant food to the soil. Food is especially important when plants such as tomatoes and peppers begin to flower.

- Harvest ripe fruits promptly so plants continue to produce new growth.

- In frost-prone areas, near the end of the season, protect your contained crops from sudden frosty nights by covering them with burlap or light blankets. If you tend only a few pots, bring them indoors when low night temperatures are forecast. Most vegetables slow their growth and fruit production as the heat and duration of sunlight subside going into fall; many herbs, however, grow well and continue to form new leaves on a very sunny windowsill indoors.

CULINARY COMBINATIONS

Create entire gardens in containers using wooden half-barrels or large, 24-inch-diameter pots. Grow the ingredients for your favorite sauces and for your favorite vegetable dishes.

SALSA GARDEN

Bush-type tomato, jalapeño (or hotter) pepper, and cilantro. Sow the cilantro seeds around the edge of the container. If you want onions in your salsa, plant them in a separate, deep planter.

PESTO POT

Basil, garlic, and (optional) parsley.

RAINBOW PLANTER

Any red, patio-type tomato, a purple or white eggplant; a couple of decorative yellow, orange, or purple sweet peppers; green- and purple-leaved basil around the edge.

FINES HERBES BOX

Tarragon, chives, parsley, and chervil. Set the first

two toward the rear of the container, so you will not disturb their roots at the end of the season when you pull up the other herbs.

BOUQUET GARNI BONANZA

Plant chervil or parsley, thyme, and marjoram around a centered sweet bay tree.

STIR-FRY SELECTION

Chinese (narrow) eggplant, any hot pepper, snow peas, and bok choy. Sow snow peas and bok choy in early spring and again in mid- to late summer for a fall harvest.

SALAD BOWL

Patio tomato and sweet pepper (in center of a round container or at each end of a rectangular one), one or two cucumber plants near edge (let them spill over, without support), radishes and red- and green-leaf lettuce in middle spaces.

SOUP MIX

Lemon grass, thyme, parsley, chives, chervil, and scallions.

PIZZA SAUCE

Bush tomato, sweet green pepper, onions or scallions, and oregano.

SEASONAL GARDEN

Spring leaf lettuce followed by summer beans on a tepee succeeded by fall peas. Set up tepee when you plant lettuce seedlings. Sow beans while lettuce is still growing; plants provide lettuce with a bit of shade from the hot sun. Sow peas in late summer where lettuce was and while beans continue to produce.

KID'S CORNER

Radishes, tomato plant, bush beans, basil, and carrots. Set tomato plant in center. Alternate clumps of basil and bean seeds in a circle around tomato. Mix seeds of radishes and carrots together and sow around outer edge; radishes will be pulled before carrots need more space to grow. □

Revised version of article obtained from the National Garden Bureau.

Illustrations courtesy of Shepherd's Garden Seeds.





Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES,
UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad

NOW IS THE TIME

TO UNDERSTAND that some violets bloom more often than others. Be patient. These are the months when stubborn violets are most likely to bloom.

TO JOLT violets into a blossoming period with a "superbloom" formula of fertilizers from the nursery. However, this may only be used for several months at one time.

TO REMOVE all blossoms when you feel more need for nutrients to concentrate on foliage to maintain a healthy base for producing blooms later.

TO USE a magnifying glass under a lamp to search for tiny insects on a plant that does not look healthy.

TO KEEP your flower pots clean, using disinfectants.

TO WATCH for "rot" centers, indicating too much fertilizer or insects.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH tuberous begonias for signs of mildew; correct with dust and spray.

TO CHECK cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

TO WATCH for insects; wash off with water.

TO FINISH repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.

TO FEED plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

TO WATER as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

TO CHECK tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DEVELOP a watering schedule, but avoid

overwatering, especially the pines.

TO PRUNE all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

TO SPRAY for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

TO SHAPE deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

TO CONTROL any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

TO FERTILIZE trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.

TO COMPLETE the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

TO PLACE trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00AM to prevent sunburning.

TO ROTATE trees often to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year-round.

TO USE a water-soluble fertilizer—one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

TO CUT new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ½ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

TO CHECK plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

TO GIVE plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants, as needed. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

TO FERTILIZE for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

TO PROTECT the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

TO CHECK any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

TO REPOT those plants needing it; use a well-draining mix. A good rule of thumb is to allow an inch

between plant and the pot.

TO REPOT seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.

TO CHECK entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME:

TO SLACK off watering as the weather warms in May. By the end of May, every three weeks should be sufficient except for your newly planted natives. An exception would be if you have a very fast-draining porous soil.

TO SPRAY for pests that threaten to overtake your garden. If your garden is healthy, natural predators will keep things in balance. This is a much better solution than spraying.

TO PLAN trips to native garden sites for ideas. It's not too late to visit Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden.

TO BE vigilant in keeping ants away from your plants as they carry (and farm) mealy bug and other scale insects as well as aphids.

TO AVOID watering during the hottest time of the day as it's very easy to burn the leaves. The sun on the water droplets causes intense heat.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE a feeding program following the bloom cycle, feeding cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tbs. per gallon-sized plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground every 4-6 weeks through mid-August.

TO MULCH plants keeping mulch 2 or so inches away from plant trunk. Mulching helps keep the shallow roots cool and moist.

TO PRUNE out any unwanted new growth. Shape as desired and thin out center of plants.

TO SPRAY for insects as they appear, hose off aphids; using malathion for loopers and miticide for mites. Orthene can be used if preferred.

TO ESTABLISH and maintain a uniform watering program. Camellias are not "water hungry," but should never be allowed to go dry. Be sure to water well the day before feeding.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.

TO SPRAY weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

TO WATER when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

TO PLANT smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.

TO BE SURE to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.

TO PINCH out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.

TO PUT out snail bait and watch for other pests.

TO REMOVE wilted flowers by cutting about ¾" out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.

TO TAKE CARE in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.

TO GIVE plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.

TO STAKE long spindly growth.

TO PROTECT foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale if necessary.

TO WATER thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning ½ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).

TO REMOVE grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.

TO APPLY a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown

rot. Complete thinning apples, pears, and stone fruit after "June drop."

TO REMOVE any suckers growing from rootstock.

TO WASH trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew, and pests like aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites.

TO SPRAY walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control codling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PINCH plants for shape and bushy growth.

TO CHANGE to 5-10-10 fertilizer to hasten maturity.

TO WATCH for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by manufacturer or less. Do *NOT* use an oil spray.

TO BE SURE to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.

TO CONTROL snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.

TO KEEP plants clean of debris and spent blooms.

TO TURN baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.

TO WATCH plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT basil, cilantro, and dill.

TO MAKE a cup of tea. Use fresh green spring herbs, comfrey, sage, mint.

TO HARVEST salad green herbs, dandelion, salad burnet, french sorrel, dill, basil.

TO FINISH any heavy pruning before the long, hot, dry summer gets strong.

TO FILL in any bare areas with summer growing herbs, basil, cayenne, parsley, valerian, feverfew.

TO MULCH with organic compost.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ALLOW cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for a while before planting.

TO HAVE beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.

TO WATCH for aphids. May use a systemic

insecticide.

TO FEED spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.

TO KEEP watering all iris that are still blooming.

TO FEED Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.

TO FEED Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.

TO FEED Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO OBSERVE the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.

TO MAINTAIN pest control against red spider, mealy bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.

TO AVOID sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon. Plants should be dry by nightfall.

TO REMEMBER that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

Culture of Different Genera:

Cymbidium: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°-70° optimum. Humidity 40-70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, fir bark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.

Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola, and Hybrid: Light 2400-3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°-70° optimum. Media for potting: fir bark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite, or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

Phalaenopsis and Hybrid: Light 900-1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°-85°, humidity 50-75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides, and Hybrid: Light 2000-3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°-70° humidity 49-75%. Potting media: tree fern, fir bark, charcoal, lava rock, or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

PELARGONIUMS

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage for the plants, both in containers and the landscape. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be worked into the soil or potting mix.

TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.

TO SELECTIVELY prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scented because this is their flowering season.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

TO ENJOY your plants at the peak of their season.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRACTICE the habit of breaking off the spent blooms of your roses as you enjoy a stroll through your rose garden. You are removing unwanted material and encouraging the plant to produce new growth at a lower part of the stem/cane.

TO CUT blooms at their peak and **SHARE** with friends and neighbors. Use sharp pruners and cut above a set of five leaflet leaves to encourage new growth for your next crop of blooms.

TO PROTECT the new basals that were beginning to grow from the bud union during the early bloom. Avoid letting these grow into a large candelabra. Remove side buds, allowing one bloom and then cut back to an eye emanating from a high five-leaflet. Treat this growth with care. It is your new wood for next year's blossoms.

TO CONTINUE to maintain a well-balanced feeding program and keep ahead of the mites and mildew by washing off your bushes in early morning.

TO MAINTAIN a vigilant watch for **RUST** on the undersides of your foliage! It is imperative that you maintain a clean area around bushes to control rust as there is no known control. It spreads quickly and removing infected materials and keeping other herbaceous plants away from your roses will best minimize the threat.

TO WATER your roses according to their needs and your location, usually at least twice a week. A well-defined basin in the soil at the drip line of each bush is ideal and also appropriate to scatter in fertilizer.

TO DISCARD varieties and bushes that fail in your garden and replace with new bushes. To avoid being disappointed with replacements, do thorough research by visiting gardens in your area to observe plants and blooms. Heavy petaled blooms that produce for the warmer parts of the area will seldom open properly for the cooler coastal areas, and the colors achieved at the coast will be pale and washed out in the inner areas.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes, and tender herbs.

TO PLANT pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

TO APPLY nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply 1/8-1/2 cup of ammonium sulfate or 1/4-1/2 cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.

TO CHECK plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: eggplant, sweet potato, tomato—African daisy (*Arctotis stoechadifolia*), celosia, centaurea, coreopsis, marigolds, nicotiana, petunia, salpiglossis, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, and tithonia.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips (in May), peppers, radish, squash (winter and summer), turnips—ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, four o'clocks, mignonette, morning glories, nasturtiums, portulaca, strawflowers, sweet alyssum, Virginia stock (*Malcomia maritima*), and zinnias.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Presents

Gardens on the Point

Eight delightful & unique gardens

Saturday, May 15th, 2004

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets available in April at:

Walter Andersen Nursery (both locations)

Mission Hills Nursery

Cedros Gardens, Solana Beach

\$10 in advance

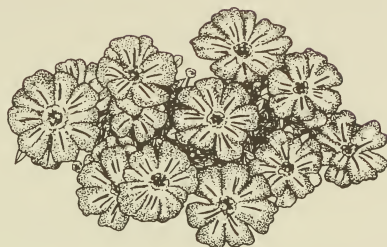
\$15 on the 15th

Info: 619-226-2028 or www.plgc.org

ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS® FOR 2004

Gypsophila 'Gypsy Deep Rose'

Flower color: deep rose
Form: 3/8" diameter, round 5-petal semi-double to double
Dimensions: 8-10" tall, 12-14" wide
Foliage color: light green
Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 60 days
Location: full sun or partial shade
Features: annual, long blooming season, petite and spreading, covered with a fine spray of rose flowers, needs water



Petunia F₁ 'Limbo Violet'

Flower color: purple/violet
Form: 2-3", single grandiflora
Dimensions: 6-7" tall, 10-12" wide
Foliage color: green
Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 7-9 weeks
Features: compact habit, no stretching, no need to pinch, prune or cut



Celosia Plumosa 'Fresh Look Yellow'

Flower color: golden yellow
Form: 9" central plume, plumes
Dimensions: 12-17" tall, 12-15" wide
Foliage color: green
Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 110 days
Features: tolerates severe weather without flower color loss, improved for vigor and branching
There is also a new red 'Fresh Look Red'



Alcea rosea 'Queeny Purple', (hollyhock)

Flower color: purple
Form: 3 1/4-4" diameter, powderpuff double flower
Dimensions: 2-3' tall, 1-2' wide
Foliage color: dark green
Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 12 weeks
Features: first dwarf type of *Alcea* in a new color, flowering the first year from seed like an annual



Melon F₁ 'Amy'

Fruit size: 2-3 lb. globe shaped

Plant dimensions: 4-5', spreading vine

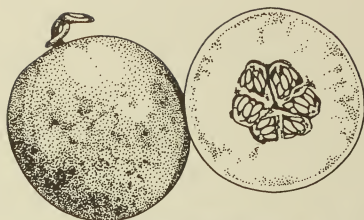
Color: golden yellow and smooth rind, white flesh

Disease tolerances: none

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: 85 days

Location: full sun

Features: exceptionally good tasting quality



Watermelon F₁ 'Sweet Beauty'

Fruit size: 6-7¼ lb. oblong shape

Plant dimensions: 9-10' spreading vine

Color: bright red flesh

Disease tolerances: none

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: 79 days

Location: full sun

Features: icebox size with exceptional eating quality



Squash, Winter F₁ 'Sunshine'

Fruit size: 3-4 lb.

Plant dimensions: 6-8' spread, semi-bush or short vine

Color: orange-red skin, orange flesh

Disease tolerances: none

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: 95 days

Features: vigorous short vine, delicious, nutty flavor completely smooth, stringless, and adaptability



Text adapted and drawings courtesy of ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS, a non-profit organization, whose office is in Downers Grove, Illinois.



Nympheaea 'Panama Pacific', photograph by Peter Dargusch

WHEN YOU PATRONIZE OUR
ADVERTISERS, PLEASE LET
THEM KNOW THAT YOU
FOUND THEM IN
CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

GREATER SAN DIEGO SCIENCE FAIR

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

I HAVE HAD THE privilege of judging the botanic exhibits at the Greater San Diego Science Fair for over forty years. This is always an exhilarating experience seeing students from middle school grades and high schools and their exhibits. It is amazing the breadth of imagination these students have in creating and examining scientific topics. To be able to conceive and produce a good experiment in botany requires them to have an adequate background in horticulture, physics, and chemistry. It also displays their ability to use the scientific method on their experiment.

At a recent fair, one of many first class experiments was done by a middle school young lady, who examined the effect of soil, water, and nutrients on the growth of radishes. Another one, an eighth grade youngster, had to do with the controlling effect of wasps on the psyllid infection on red gum eucalyptus that is ruining lots of San Diego eucalyptus trees.

One study that pleased me was the effect of earthworms on the growth of radishes. The research proved how beneficial earthworms are in the soil. The experimenter wants to go on and see how compost is made by worms and other living things including bacteria and mold.

The ways of watering were examined in many experiments. The effect on growth on both leaves, roots, and seeding were looked at. One good conclusion was brought out several times that deep watering as needed is much better than shallow watering done more often.

A young man had a quite elaborate experiment on the effect of the chemicals released by pepper trees that cause poor or no growth on plants growing under the trees. This raises the same questions about eucalyptus foliage and fruit, both in plants around the trees and in compost heaps.

On another occasion, on exhibit was by a New Zealand girl who had won the grand prize in the New Zealand science fair and her prize was a trip to San Diego to show off her experiment, which was the treatment of fruiting branches of the kiwi tree to optimize the quantity and size of the kiwi fruit.

The preparation of compost heaps was a popular experiment amongst several students. Many experiments were about the basic chemistry of plant growth, which include the effects of various fertilizers, the composition of the soil and how to test for the pH, or acidity of the soil. Another interesting subject was examining the effect of various color lights on plant growth and which colors

were the primary ones that the plants needed.

It was most interesting to question the exhibitors during the judging sessions to ascertain how well they understood the scientific method and to determine where they went to get help and information for their work. The net result of this is that the students learned a lot and the judges learned a lot too. I recommend strongly that you go to the fair that opens to the public after the day of judging. Look for it next year at Science Fair time, which is usually late March. Watch the newspaper for date and schedule.

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.



SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$10.00 (single membership) or \$12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



Vivian Follmer
SDCOS Membership
13127 Roundup
San Diego, CA 92129
(619) 538-6187



CORN PLANT BLOOMS IN EL CAJON

Dracaena fragrans 'Massangeana' in bloom! This is extremely unusual and very rare, according to a horticultural instructor at Cuyamaca College and Armstrong Nursery staff, and is not even mentioned in many plant books. Its very strong hyacinth-like odor permeates the home. The plant was given to Eva Schneider by her daughter on Mother's Day twelve years ago and never bloomed until December 2003. It has been standing in a corner and fed only water and eggshells. Eva regards the surprise blooming as a Christmas present from her daughter, who died four years ago.



Leaves at bottom are on a different plant.
Photographs by Bill Schneider.



Dracaena fragrans 'Massangeana'

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
CRAFT and FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES**

CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK
9:30AM to 2:00PM

Bring a lunch, coffee and sweets provided
Register with San Diego Floral Association office,
619/232-5762, Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182
for more information.

PLEASE PREREGISTER!

AQUA DESIGN — AQUA DAY

Tuesday, 27 April 2004

Instructor: Velma West

FEE: \$25.00 for members, \$30.00 for nonmembers

**April showers bring May flowers, we will do two
arrangements — underwater and waterfall designs.
Get ready for May!**

As usual, bring vases, flowers, clippers, etc. Greens
and flowers available.

Call Marie, 619-298-5182 or office, 619-232-5764 for
reservations

BASKET CLASSES

Tuesday 4, 11, 18, 25 May 2004

Instructor: Kathy and Marie Walsh, Martha Rosenberg
will supervise.

FEE \$15.00-\$30.00 per basket, depending on type
chosen

**Make one or more baskets — pine needle,
three-ring, gourd, woven, or palm**

Design, pattern, and materials included. Bring clippers,
towel, and bucket.

CLASSES WANTED

- ☐ Aqua Design
April 27, 2004
☐ Baskets
May 4, 11, 18, or 25

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004

If you have never visited Lotusland, you will be
treated to a memorable experience. Madame Walska
consulted with the finest landscape architects and
horticulturists to create this unparalleled site. You will
visit a series of gardens—Japanese, water, topiary, blue
parterre, etc. You will view specimen plants of
euphorbia, cacti, cycads, succulents, dragon trees, and
many others.

We will have a two-hour docent-led walking tour
and it is necessary that participants be able to walk
through the gardens.

Prices of \$65.00 for members and \$70.00 for
nonmembers include transportation, garden admission,
snack, box lunch, and buffet dinner.

If you have any questions, please call Annette Reid
at 858-459-6180 or SDFA office, 619-232-5762.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004

- ☐ \$65.00 MEMBERS (WHO PAY DUES TO SDFA)
☐ \$70.00 NONMEMBERS
Includes snack, box lunch ☐ meat ☐ vegetarian,
buffet dinner.

Make checks payable to San Diego Floral Association

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☐ Carlsbad Park and Ride, NE corner La Costa Blvd. & I-5
8:00 a.m.



Book Reviews

THE JEWEL BOX GARDEN

Thomas Hobbs, Photos by David McDonald

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 176 pages, 160 color photos, 10" x 10", hardcover, \$34.95

Take one part gardening expertise and one part eye for beauty and you get "Gardening as Theater," the theme for this beautiful little book. Hobbs lives in a mediterranean-style home overlooking downtown Vancouver, B.C., with a relatively small but exuberant garden, much of which must be wintered over in a greenhouse. Undaunted by the climate, he has surrounded himself with the plants of a much more temperate climate, crowding them into narrow beds and pots and filling in any available space with more pots, artifacts, and ornaments.

The "jewel box" concept is introduced by photos of a miniature Versailles, pots on a balcony filled with boxwoods, topiary, and succulents. Small can definitely be very beautiful, interesting, and fun when you let your imagination have full rein and appreciate that today's setting can and probably will be changed the day after tomorrow. The author splices solid gardening information with wry opinions and observations that clearly convey his sense that humor and a relaxed attitude are as important as horticultural expertise.

Color is his main interest, as he combines red and oranges, oranges and pinks, yellow and oranges, (but never red and yellow!) with as much texture as possible. The sounds of fountains or the breeze through leaves add dramatic effect, as does the scent of flowers. Succulents play a major role, as do subtropicals, most of which are in containers, bringing an added note of interest and beauty. Investing in fabulous pots is an extravagance that Hobbs considers a solid financial move.

Hobb's call to employ artistry and dreams in the garden is clearly echoed by the color photos in this elegant book. Whether zoomed in on leaf patterns or focused on longer landscape views, they are truly jewels in themselves.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

CLIMBING ROSES OF THE WORLD

Charles Quest-Ritson

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 376 pages, 200 color photos 7 7/8" x 10 1/2", hardcover, \$34.95

Imagine a climbing rose that has entwined itself for years around trellises, walls, and pillars. If you see a thicket, dense with branches and flowers, you have a metaphor for the complexities of this volume's vast subject. The author's long association with British rose societies plus his facility in six languages provided the tools and inspiration for this prodigious effort. He has clearly succeeded in compiling a detailed history and description of a plant whose species classification and nomenclature have evolved and changed over several centuries.

The first recognized sighting of *Rosa multiflora* was in the eighteenth century, when Carl Peter Thunberg was delayed in a Japanese trading station and, noticing the plant growing nearby, could bring a garden cultivar back to Europe. Although, consequently, not much is known about its actual origins, many new species were developed by hybridizers and there is a large body of "quoted parentage" that is at least as detailed as that of thoroughbred horses.

Given the scope of his topic, the author has done an admirable job of separating out the tangled strands of history and horticultural practice that have produced 1,600 climbing roses currently in cultivation with more than four hundred available from nurseries. He writes in a straightforward way, with many quotations from earlier rose writers, but so much is included that organization of some text seems a bit jumbled. As it goes from rose history to specific plant description to horticultural pioneers the casual reader may feel lost in the thicket but rose enthusiasts familiar with the context probably will fare better. Color plates appear in various sections but there are no identifying references to them in the text. The final section covers the cultivation of climbing roses, a glossary and bibliography.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WATER GARDEN PLANTS

Greg Speichert, Sue Speichert

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 386 pages, 707 color photos, 8 1/2" x 11", hardcover, \$49.95

Publishers of *Water Gardening Magazine*, Greg and Sue Speichert have produced an excellent reference book both for novice and experienced water gardeners alike.

Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants covers the basics of culture, cultivation, and propagation with how-to

photos accompanying the text. As you might expect, one can find a wealth of information on many species and cultivars of plants featured in most water gardens such as water lilies, lotuses and irises. But, in addition, the book is very comprehensive covering an array of diverse plants. Chapters on floating and submerged water plants include a large segment devoted to plants that grow on the water's edge or marginals. Some marginals are well known to most gardeners, like *Hibiscus*, *Canna*, and *Colocasia* (taro). However those looking for something new also can find numerous esoteric and unique plants, such as *Sarracenia* (pitcher plant) and *Cypella aquatica* (water tulip).

Fertilizers, pots, and a variety of potting media are discussed to help in making the right choices for each planting situation. The final chapter includes information on pests and diseases.

Hundreds of color photos illustrate and add an aesthetic appeal throughout the book. *Encyclopedia of Water Gardening* is a complete and authoritative guide for information and advice to assist in the selection, identification, and cultivation of water plants.

Reviewed by Peter Dargusch

CÉZANNE'S GARDEN

Derek Fell

New York, Simon & Schuster, 2003, 131 pages, 9¼" x 9¼", 112 color photos, hardcover, \$35

Nature inspired both the art and gardens of Paul Cézanne. Not for him were perennial borders or clipped hedges, or even the massed effects of Monet's garden at Giverny, which he regarded as contrived and labor intensive. Instead he cherished the sinuous lines of tree trunks and the wealth of shapes, colors, and textures he found in the foliage.

Landscape design as it is commonly perceived is not to be found in this handsome volume by one of today's most respected garden writers. Instead it features the works of the nineteenth century Impressionist painter as reflected in the gardens he inhabited.

Illustrating with color photos and prints of the artist's work, Fell explores the sources of Cézanne's inspiration and his guiding philosophy, that of nature's triumph over man's dominion. He describes and has photographed the leaf tunnels, allées of trees, and masses of foliage in vertical garden style that were nurtured by Cézanne. Old stones, on their own or in tumbled-down walls, were a favorite accent, as were potted geraniums and weathered ornaments of every kind. "Nature is not on the surface, it is in the depths," was how Cézanne expressed his approach to his art and the gardens that were his inspiration. Both are shown in photos that include both

interior and exterior views of his homes and studios.

A chapter on Aix-en-Provence, describes it as a deliberate "garden in decline." Branches covering the approach to a doorway, dark pools, and leaf covered pathways express the natural effect treasured by the artist. Another chapter presents other "tapestry gardens" whose massing of foliage in many hues and textures echoes the same qualities. Finally a short chapter on how one would go about creating a similar setting even includes a color rendering to make all the elements perfectly clear.

It might be said that this is more of an art than a garden book, but its emphasis on form, color, texture, and light also adds a valuable dimension to any discussion of landscape design.

Reviewed by Marge-Howard Jones

TROPICAL FLOWERING PLANTS: A Guide to Identification and Cultivation

Kristen Albrecht Llamas

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 424 pages, 1,553 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$69.95

Plant descriptions, in words and pictures, dominate this beautiful book. The author's avocation of photography has augmented her extensive horticultural background to make this a complete survey of her chosen field.

A short introduction includes a review of general plant classifications and growing needs, with specific reference to various hardiness zones. The bulk of the book is a complete list, alphabetically by family, of more than 1,400 flowering trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants. Common and synonymous names are included in every listing and related photos appear on the same page. The origins of each plant, its uses, and growing needs are also given.

Just browsing these pages could be like a visit to a tropical garden, but it is the appendices that also offer real food for thought. A list of invasive and potentially invasive plants is followed by a list of tropical plants that are rare, endangered, and/or threatened. A list of plants whose salt tolerance makes them most suitable for coastal growing is included, as is a list of xerophytic plants. Finally, a complete glossary and bibliography fills in any further needed information.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENING WITH PERENNIALS MONTH BY MONTH by Joseph Hudek has been published in paperback by Timber Press. This is the second edition originally published in 1993. USDA hardiness Zone is listed for all plants with flowering span time. This time needs to be adjusted for latitude. Also included are 435 color photos. The cost is \$29.95.



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E-mail: c.herzog@att.net

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E-mail: adoglover1@juno.com
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E-mail: dc@pondplants.com
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SERVING SAN DIEGO FOR 75 YEARS

NEW WEB FEATURES OFFER MORE WATER-SAVING TOOLS

BY LUIS GENEROSO

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO Water Department's Water Conservation website now has more to offer for the year 2004. Among the various water conservation resources already available, the website is introducing two new features: the Low water Use Drought Tolerant Plant List and the Water Conservation Certificate Verification System. Both features will help to make conserving water easier for the residents, businesses, and property owners of San Diego.

The Low Water Use Drought Tolerant Plant List provides a large selection of water conserving plants that are able to grow with little or no additional irrigation. The easily accessible list will help San Diegans integrate water conscious plants into their landscaping. The list consists of more than one hundred different plants, organized by the following categories: Annual Wildflowers, Perennial Wildflowers, Groundcovers, Vines, Succulents, Shrubs, and Trees. Conserving water in the garden has never been so easy!

The Water Conservation Certificate Verification System is now accessible through the Internet. Property owners, buyers, real estate or escrow agents can now verify on the water conservation website if a property has a valid certificate on file that meets the requirement of San Diego Municipal Code Section 147.04 — Retrofit Upon Change of Property Ownership. This municipal code requires that all buildings in San Diego are certified as water-conserving structures prior to changing ownership. Sellers of property are required to ensure that plumbing fixtures conserve water by signing and submitting a Water Conservation Certificate to the City of San Diego Water Conservation Program.

The website is also full of other helpful resources to aid San Diego residents make water-wise choices a way of life. Available resources include:

The Landscape Watering Calculator helps determine the appropriate amount of water your landscape requires throughout the different seasons of the year.

The Ultra-Low Flush Toilet Voucher Program provides vouchers of up to \$75 to residents who purchase qualifying ultra-low flush toilets.

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College offers community members the opportunity to learn water-efficient gardening options, as well as alternative irrigation and watering methods.

The High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Voucher Program provides vouchers worth up to \$125 to residents who purchase qualifying high-efficiency clothes washers that are both water and energy efficient.

Visit www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation for immediate access to these helpful water-conserving resources and information.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about water conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619-515-3500.

Luis Generoso is Water Resources Manager for the City of San Diego.

SAVING WATER SAVES ENERGY

BY LUIS GENEROSO

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO Water Department, together with other local water agencies, is partnering with the Energy Commission to highlight ways San Diegans can save water while at the same conserving energy.

Water and energy have an important relationship. The California Energy Commission reports that, "Moving water around the state takes up to forty percent of the total energy supply." So there are several ways in which our water use behavior affects our household energy consumption.

According to Gary Klein of the California Energy Commission, "Water and energy are wasted while residents wait for hot water to get from the water heater to the fixtures dispersed throughout the home." He calculates that ten to twenty gallons of water are wasted each day while waiting for the hot water to arrive. How can one eliminate, reduce, or effectively use the water wasted during this process?

- Maximize wasted water usage by using the old water for something else. Capture the unused water in a bucket to water plants or rinse off

vegetables.

- An easy way to save water and energy is to turn off the tap. The "Flex Your Power Campaign" notes that turning off the tap while shaving can save up to twelve gallons of water, and turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save up to five gallons of water.

Another way to save water and energy is to invest in or use energy-efficient household appliances, which in turn also may lower your utility bills in the long run.

- Run full loads in a high-efficiency clothes washer. A high-efficiency washing (HEW) machine uses forty percent less water than the average washer, uses fifty-five percent less energy, and reduces drying time by fifty percent. A single machine can save approximately 5,100 gallons of water per year. Not only do they use less water, HEW machines use less energy because there is less water to heat.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher. Traditional dishwashing machines account for nearly twenty-eight percent of all indoor water usage. Additionally, data from the California Energy Commission shows that dishwashers use thirty-seven percent less water than washing dishes by hand. While there may be some concerns that a significant amount of energy is needed to heat the water in the dishwasher, there are new and innovative products on the market. Products with the Energy Star® sticker maximize water and energy consumption for homeowners.
- Use appliances after peak hours. The "Flex Your Power Campaign" suggests using large appliances like dishwashers and clothes washing machines after 7:00 p.m. to help save both water and energy.

Appropriate landscape design is another way to conserve energy. For instance, planting deciduous trees that shade the south side of your house will cut down on energy use by at least ten percent. This will cool your roof during the summer months and allow you to use less air conditioning. Also, in the winter when these trees are bare, they will allow sunlight into your house warming it up and cutting down your heating costs.

"It's amazing how much water and energy are interrelated," explained Chris Robbins, supervising Management Analyst for the City of San Diego Water Department. "In the last year, the water conserving efforts created by our programs helped to save more than three million kilowatt-hours of energy, and prevented the production of nearly 1,800 tons of carbon dioxide."

For more tips on how to save energy and water in your home, visit the "Flex Your Power" website at <http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov/> and www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation, the City Water Department's website□

Nymphaea 'Rosy Morn', photograph by Peter Dargusch



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Nymphaea 'Pink Sensation', Photo by Peter Dargusch

COASTAL SAGE

GARDENING
GIFTS & SUPPLY

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Share in the Joy of Learning

www.BOTANYFORKIDS.com www.INHARMONYHERBS.com

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

*Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.*

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display.
Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- ☛ Monthly 26-page newsletter
- ☛ Trips to outstanding gardens
- ☛ Local garden tours
- ☛ Discounts at nurseries
- ☛ Seed & plant swap
- ☛ Video and book library
- ☛ Annual Garden Party
- ☛ and much more!

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

May 10: Calif. Natives and Mediterranean Plants
David Fross, owner of Native Sons Nursery, will give a slide talk about "Two Gardens, Twenty Five Years," his experiences with creating beautiful moderate-water gardens.

June – SDHS Night at the Fair

For members and guests – see SDHS newsletter.

Available now: our hardcover, lavishly illustrated book,
Ornamental Trees of San Diego, only \$34.95

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org
or (760) 730-3268



CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 0084-020)
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